

Inside
this
week



McInnis Cement opens cement terminal in New York



Gaspesian mayors ready to give new cabinet members a chance



Federal government supports three Native economic development initiatives

The Gaspé Spec

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Frédéric Blais to represent Canada at Hyundai's international competition

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE – A resident of New Carlisle, Frédéric Blais, who is in charge of technical support at Hyundai Gaspésie, the Hyundai car dealership in Bonaventure, will soon represent Canada at an international competition organized by the company to recognize its best customer service employee in the world.

Mr. Blais was one of two Quebec competitors to participate in the Canadian version of the competition, between September 10 and September 12 in Toronto.

“The country’s best twelve employees in that field were in Toronto. There were some tests, written exams and situation management scenarios. I won,” explains Frédéric Blais.

A few provinces were represented by two competitors because of the high number of Hyundai car dealers and because of the selection method put up by the firm to choose its best customer service people. A few other provinces were, therefore, not repre-

sented in Toronto.

Hyundai’s selection methods are based on internal evaluation carried out over a long period.

“Hyundai knows you, I mean the company’s employees. They are running surveys with the clientele over the longterm. It is a very important aspect of the company’s assessment,” he says.

Frédéric Blais, a proud father of a four-month-old baby girl, is gearing up for Hyundai’s international meet, which will take place between November 3 and November 9 in Seoul, South Korea.

“There will be 150 competitors from around the world,” he points out. The North American competitors will face the biggest jet lag of all with 15 hours, sometimes more. He will cope with that. “I am used to lacking sleep, with the baby. I have a hard time remembering the dates of the Toronto event,” he says with a laugh.

The language barrier is not a problem for Frédéric Blais. He was born in Quebec City but moved a few times with



Photo: Hyundai Canada

Frédéric Blais, in the middle, is congratulated by Terry Tizzard, Hyundai’s manager of training, and Michel Poirier, director of customer service, after his Toronto win.

his family when he was young.

“I spent large parts of my childhood in Ontario and Manitoba. I am fluently bilingual. Besides, Hyundai runs its tests and exams in the language wanted by the em-

ployee,” he explains.

Aged 35, he is a trained mechanic who spent ten years working in that trade before being promoted to customer service as a technical adviser.

“I manage the mechanical shop. I take care of the clients’

appointments and their vehicles’ needs,” he says.

He moved to the Gaspé Peninsula five years ago. “I settled in the Gaspé after meeting a woman from New Carlisle. I love it here,” he concludes.

thegaspespec.com

McInnis Cement opens cement terminal in the Bronx, New York City

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – A number of New York City dignitaries, including city council member and Land Use Committee chair Rafael Salamanca, Bronx Community Board 2 Chair, Bobby Crespo and members of several Bronx organizations and the local business community joined McInnis Cement executives to celebrate the official opening of the McInnis Cement terminal in the Bronx, on October 10.

This terminal is the first new industrial maritime project built on the South Bronx waterfront in more than half a century. The newly constructed 100,000-square-foot, round the clock operational terminal is the port location for storing and distributing cement in New York City and beyond.

The terminal is receiving large ocean vessels sailing from the company's plant in Port-Daniel-Gascons. The Bronx warehouse can store up to 44,000 metric tons of cement, which is the equivalent of 1,500 truckloads.

Since 90 percent of the plant's cement will be delivered via ships, traffic is projected to decrease significantly across bridges and roads of the Bronx. This is expected to eliminate 25,000 one-way truck trips and remove more than two million truck miles off the roads across the region annually.

"Our Bronx terminal is more than just a new facility. In addition to building a new cement company, our Hunts Point location is reactivating a working waterfront while balancing the needs of the community, environmental habitat and industry," said Jean Moreau, president and chief executive officer of McInnis Cement, on October 10.

"Our goal was to set a new standard for development in the New York City harbour, placing a major industrial operation in harmony with a natural wildlife habitat and providing waterfront access for the citizens of the South Bronx," he added.

An integral part of the South Bronx Greenway is the three-acres of wetlands which allows the public to enjoy na-

ture, while preserving the water habitat for plants, birds and fish. To create this habitat, McInnis restored the shoreline, which included removing a century old decayed pier system and installing a wave attenuator (a device to lessen the strength of waves) to preserve the wetlands and protect the waterfront.

This Hunts Point location has a long history with many uses over the years. Dating back to the 1850s, the site was once a 19th century amusement park as well as a float yard to move rail cars laden with coal, construction materials and daily consumables for transport to Manhattan and Long Island.

The site eventually went dormant, fell into disrepair and was used as an illegal city dump for a number of years before being acquired by Steven Smith. McInnis Cement, along with Smith's company, Oak Point Property LLC, continued the extensive efforts to transform the multi-acre property into an exemplary industrial site.

The site is one of the largest privately-owned public spaces in New York. Additionally, McInnis Cement is the first project to become certified through the Waterfront Alliance's new, nationally applicable Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines. That certification is the gold standard for resilient, ecologically-sound, and accessible waterfront design.

The location offers access to a large number of concrete producers, who are located in one of the most densely populated areas of the United States.

"With the access to efficient waterways, our ships allow us to be environmentally friendly while making deliveries efficiently. This is also an industrially-zoned waterfront site that happens to be in an area with a quality workforce as well as in the heart of the largest construction customer base," said Tony Sneska, vice president, marketing and sales, for McInnis Cement USA.

"While the terminal's impact on local cement supply, employment, traffic and revitalization might be considered more than enough to justify the ambitious project, its im-



Photo: courtesy of McInnis Cement.

One of the two ships chartered by McInnis Cement, the *Cielo di Gaspésie*, making a stop at the Bronx terminal. A barge is assisting the ship's crew in the unloading phase using an articulated arm to suck cement out of the vessel's holds and send it towards the silos. All the pipes are placed underground and are part of a closed system. The *Cielo di Gaspésie* is used for exports to the United States, while the *NACC Québec*, the other ship chartered by McInnis Cement, is used to serve Canadian ports.

pact on the local environment may prove to be its greatest reward," added Mr. Sheska.

The McInnis Cement plant

was built between May 2014 and June 2017 in Port Daniel. Its production capacity will eventually reach 2.2 million

tonnes annually. About 150 people work for the company and its subcontractors on that site.

Gaspesian mayors ready to give new cabinet members a chance

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The mayors of New Richmond and Gaspé, Éric Dubé and Daniel Côté, are ready to give the cabinet members of the new Coalition Avenir Québec government a chance to prove their good faith and ability to act over the next months.

Daniel Côté and Éric Dubé will keep a close eye on two ministers, Marie-Ève Proulx and François Bonnardel, who each represent territories with strong rural content.

Marie-Ève Proulx, the Côte-du-Sud riding Member of the National Assembly is the new minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, as well as delegate minister of Regional Economic Development. She is also responsible for the regions of Lower Saint Lawrence and Chaudière-Appalaches. Those three regions cover 24 MRCs. Her riding covers the west extremity of Lower Saint-Lawrence and the Montmagny area.

François Bonnardel is



Photo: G. Gagné

Traffic has been increasing steadily on the line since 2014 and the mayors of New Richmond and Gaspé think that the upgrading of the railway will continue.

Quebec's new Transport Minister. He represents the riding of Granby. He has been a Member of the National Assembly for 11.5 years, first for Action démocratique du Québec in Shefford, and then for Coalition avenir Québec.

"Overall, we have to give them a chance. As the minister responsible for three regions covering a territory as big as three countries, she (Ms. Proulx) is preparing to run three marathons. We will

provide her with information about our stakes. We are extending a hand. What is reassuring about her is that she was a mayor and she served two other terms as a councillor. She knows the field and she hails from a rural region," says Daniel Côté.

"A lot of people will try to contact her but she will have a good knowledge of the subjects, as a former mayor. She

Cont'd on page 5

Federal government supports three Native economic development initiatives

Police report



Photo: G. Gagné

Gesgapegiag Chief Rod Larocque, Minister Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament Rémi Massé and Viger fisheries coordinator Guy-Pascal Wiener were on hand for an update of economic development projects for the Natives.

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – The Mi'gmaq communities of Gespeg and Gesgapegiag, and the Maliseets of Viger are receiving \$2.7 million for three projects supervised by the Mi'gmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association. Those initiatives involve the restoration of important coastal habitats, an increased productivity and expansion of the SALAWEG products and continuous training of Indigenous youth on fishing boats.

Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the riding of Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands and Minister of National Revenue, and Rémi Massé, Member of Parliament for Avignon-Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, attended an October 10 presentation of the three projects, on behalf of their cabinet colleagues. Gesgapegiag Chief Rod Larocque also attended the event.

The financial support from various federal departments will first enable the Mi'gmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association, referred to as MMAFMA, to restore coastal fish habitats in areas of importance to the Mi'gmaq communities of Gespeg and Gesgapegiag and the Maliseet people of Viger.

The second project will allow the MMAFMA to undertake the necessary actions to ensure the sustainability of

SALAWEG, a company under Aboriginal control. This produces a range of products intended for human consumption made from algae generated through aquaculture.

The third initiative will continue to provide training specifically tailored to the needs of Mi'gmaq and Maliseet people who aspire to be fishermen or captains.

The projects are funded by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, the Ministry of Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, the Department of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Department of Indigenous Services, the Ministry of Families and the Department of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

Details

The Mi'gmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association will receive \$800,000 over four years for a project that will help restore coastal habitats for fish. The first phase of the project is to identify and prioritize sites to be restored for the benefit of the members of the Mi'gmaq communities of Gespeg and Gesgapegiag and the Maliseet of Viger. Subsequently, the identification and planning will help to implement restoration projects on the se-

lected sites and ensure the sustainability of improvements.

The sites that will be restored are located along the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence. Areas targeted by the project are eelgrass beds, salt marshes, shellfish beds and migration corridors of species that require fresh water to complete their life cycle. Ultimately, the project will enhance key habitats for several fish species, including forage species at the bottom of the food chain, namely the stickleback, rainbow smelt, herring and capelin; predatory species like the striped bass and flounder; and migratory species, such as salmon and the American eel.

This project, led by the MMAFMA, will also increase the capacity of these communities in terms of conservation and restoration of coastal habitats.

As for algae producer SALAWEG, MMAFMA acquired its own mariculture site this year in order to secure its kelp production and process larger volumes.

Some areas were sown with seedlings on the new Paspébiac site at the beginning of October which will complete an initial autonomous production run in 2019.

Efforts are also being made to develop secondary and tertiary processing activities and to transfer the project from

The Sûreté du Québec investigators are looking for clues that will help them solve the cause of the fire that killed three residents of Saint-Siméon on October 13. On October 17, it became evident that police officers were trying to locate a man from the area, but Sûreté du Québec spokespersons are not confirming that situation or the identity of that man.

On October 22, Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for Sûreté du Québec, said that “the investigators are still trying to gather clues in order to solve what is now considered a crime. We have found evidence that seems to confirm that arson was a factor in the fire.”

Isabelle Lepage, 40, her son Philippe Lepage, 14, and his girlfriend Laurence Lebrasseur, also 14, of Paspébiac, died in the house on Poirier Road. Philippe Lepage was living with his father, Martin Landry, in Murdochville.

His older sister, Marilou Lepage, 18, escaped from the fire because she was sleeping on the main floor, as the victims were all asleep on the second floor.

The fact that investigators were still active on the fire scene two and a half days after the discovery of the three bodies inside the house led people to believe that a crime was a possible cause of the fire. Former Saint-Siméon mayor Jean-Guy Poirier was among those people.

“Usually, after a fire, the investigators are there for five or six hours. They were still around today,” said Mr. Poirier to the SPEC on October 15, after three full days of inquiry.

“I saw police officers walk along the beach, look for clues in the backyard of neighbours. It is clear that they don't think it was an accidental fire,” added Mr. Poirier.

The Sûreté du Québec issued a message on the evening of October 15 to state that clues were pointing in the direction of a crime to explain the fire. An investigation squad specialized in crimes against persons was assigned to the case, and replaced the major crime squad.

On October 17, Sûreté du Québec officers opened a temporary office in Saint-Siméon's community centre in order to meet people who had something to say about the tragedy. “We answered people's questions and gathered information that could make the case progress,” said Sgt. Doiron.

He admitted that the admission of arson as the cause of the fire generated concern in the community. What are the policemen saying to people in order to reassure them?

“We reply that the police presence is important in Saint-Siméon, even during the night. Supplemental officers were called for the occasion. That presence is dissuading people (who would commit another crime). We will be present in Saint-Siméon as long as it is needed,” he says.

Thérèse Leclerc, 86, from Saint-Omer died in a head-on collision that occurred on October 19, at about 10:50 a.m., near the intersection of Route 132 and Berthelot Street, in Saint-Omer. She was driving her car heading westward when it deviated towards the opposing lane and struck another car. The victim was rushed to the hospital but was pronounced dead in Maria. The two occupants of the other vehicle were slightly injured. Sgt. Doiron points out that an autopsy will be performed on the body of the victim, as well as a mechanical inspection of her vehicle, which are precautions that are usual in this kind of accident.

Cont'd on page 6



Commentary

Cynthia Dow

Will we get pulled down into the American decline?

When the Titanic sank in the chilly waters of the North Atlantic, the wise sailors who captained the rescue boats knew enough to row far away from the wreck so as to avoid being pulled down into the vortex caused by the sinking of the huge boat. Only after all was calm did they return to the scene to try to find survivors floating in the debris left behind.

Sadly, most of those who had remained on the ship and later fallen into the sea were drowned or frozen to death. Few survivors were picked up.

Somehow this sad tale makes me think of Canada's plight as we watch the decline and fall of the American Empire on our doorstep. All signs point to the fast-approaching end of American hegemony in the world: rampant consumerism, increasing strain on the environment, growing disparities between the rich and poor, obsession with sex and status, public apathy, amoral leadership, and lack of integrity. These are all historic signs of the end of an empire.

Funny, sounds like our recent provincial election campaign! Basically, here we have the top three parties led by a bunch of privileged white males – their posturing reminds me of Roman Emperors! Not one could be easily differentiated from the other in terms of economic strategies, vision (what vision?) and lack of moral fibre: they'll say just about anything to anyone to get elected. Their debates were so boring I almost cried.

It's not fun to watch an empire disintegrate. What results is whole-scale disruption, economic collapse, often violence before things begin to calm down and a new way of governing develops. The worse thing is, we seem to be in denial about what is happening, and denial has never been a good way to prepare for anything.

Canada, being so close to the American juggernaut,

is very vulnerable right now. For decades the American public agenda of wealth over public good, consumerism over environmental protection, status-seeking over egalitarianism, blind patriotism over multiculturalism has been seeping north across the border. The disgraceful debates about immigration and religious freedoms in this province, which are about to heat up even more given the election of the CAQ government, are a symptom of this contagion.

Few of our leaders espouse visions and dreams of a better world. Our political elite, and certainly the vast majority of our business leaders, seem intent on one thing only: grabbing and holding on to power. Public debate is steeped in lies, manipulation, and the stench of secret pacts between the powerful and the wealthy. Nothing else seems to matter, not even personal integrity, or our very survival on an increasingly degraded planet.

The outcome of the Quebec election is an indication that our political system is failing us in terms of guaranteeing a happier future. In voting for one of the three

main parties, all Quebecers did was shuffle the deck chairs on the Titanic. We need real change, and we need it now.

I was hoping for a minority government with Québec Solidaire holding the balance of power. Then we might see the beginnings of a new tomorrow. In the televised debates, Manon Massé showed herself to be an authentic person with a vision. It may be a vision not all of us share -- perhaps way too socialist for some -- but a vision nonetheless of a more egalitarian society which is kinder to the environment and means to put the public good before that of corporations. Finally, a breath of fresh air! Sadly, an option not chosen by many Quebecers.

On the federal level there is disappointment as well. Prime Minister Trudeau, rather than bending over backwards to get the new NAFTA signed at whatever expense to our nation, would have been better off ensuring this country becomes as independent as possible of that shipwreck to the south of us. The way things are going, we are not well placed to escape the vortex.

Letters to the Editor

Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed in her opinion piece, Friday, October 12 in the Montreal Gazette Opinion Section, writes about the hateful, vitriolic climate created by the refueled debate regarding secularism in the public service sector, which includes among others teachers.

For anyone who's not aware, the newly elected CAQ party in Quebec proposes that public servants, those that work in positions of authority - role models, should not wear any type of religious symbols - for example large crosses, kippas, turbans ...

I'm neither for nor against secularism. It is nothing more than a response of disdain or fear of religion. Kind of like bilingualism as a response to the language debate. In the end it doesn't matter. The people will decide. We survived a long, long language and separation scenario in our province, with minimal bloodshed. Language, values and religion discussions can be quite emotionally charged; logic is not always the high point.

If Québec finds a way to resolve this emotionally charged debate about religion and inclusion, maybe

we could then train and send people to the Middle East and help the leaders there find peace after 2000 and some years of hostility.

As for me, unlike Ms. Naqvi-Mohamed, who was "raised by a secular family and against the wishes of her immediate family, ... is fiercely proud to express... (herself) by ...covering the parts of her body she chooses; I was raised in a Christian family, Anglican. However, once I had attended university, been away from home for awhile and exposed to various doctrines, I began to doubt the power of humans to decide what God wanted me to do and the symbols I should wear. The attraction of being part of a religious group, memorizing creeds, prayers and hymns lost its significance for me. The clothing that best symbolizes me is jeans and t-shirts.

People determine what is important enough to get upset about, to rally against. In Quebec there are many fine people and many of them are sick and tired of negotiating and lamenting over topics that do nothing for the job market, health or the welfare of the society. It is in fact made up of a mature population who has resolved a language-separation issue and seen much of hateful, vitriolic "keyboard warriors" - French pea soupers, square heads, penguins ..., even comparisons to Nazi Germany and Hitler.

And no Ms. Naqvi-Mohamed, one sick young man from suburban Quebec City in January 2017 does not represent or compare to "The rhetoric that is bubbling up...". Quebec mothers or fathers do not want to see their children as martyrs for a cause. The parents and siblings of the young Quebec shooter are living with the consequences of their son's actions. Depression and the side effects of not taking one's medication are not signs of a kamikaze society.

One thing is certain: this battle of religious symbols versus secularism is on fertile stamping grounds. This is a province where the Catholic churches are being converted to condominiums. Let's hope it's a real quiet revolution with enough exceptions that everyone will be happy. War zones don't promote good real estate prices, high employment, solid pay checks and food on the table.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful winter ahead.

Vivian Anne(tt) Beebe
New Carlisle, QC

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Youth Protection annual report shows stability

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – The Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands Youth Protection Directorate is still looking for anglophone foster families to take care of children in difficult times. The organization made that call as it was presenting its results for the 2017-2018 financial year.

"That's a great challenge, in our region, to find foster families, regardless of their language. But finding anglophone families is an additional challenge," says Michelle Frenette, interim director of the regional Youth Protection Directorate, often designated by its French acronym DPJ, for *Direction de la protection de la jeunesse*.

The DPJ sometimes has to take charge of unilingual anglophone children and needs families who speak that language, Mrs. Frenette adds.

From April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018, the DPJ received 1,474 reports about children in difficult situations, that is to say 1% fewer than the previous year. There were 633 reports received, that is to say 9% fewer than in 2016-2017.

"I dare hope that we experience that stability because we put a lot of emphasis on assisting families with primary care services, before a report is needed," Mrs. Frenette comments.

The main causes of accepted reports are neglect (22%), physical abuse (19%) and psychological mistreatment (17%), which is similar to last year numbers.

No MRC is free of problems but Haute-Gaspésie, which includes the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts area, has the highest number of accepted reports (112), with the smallest population of the peninsula's MRCs. Listuguj had to deal with 69 reports in 2017-2018, and most of them (61) were accepted, in a resident population of about 2,000 people.

The DPJ has developed "good cooperation" with the aboriginal communities, underlines Mrs. Frenette. "Our communities have their pool of foster families, as well as rehabilitation services, to allow those children to stay in their community and keep their cultural identity."

The DPJ also took the opportunity in its annual report to pay tribute to its employees. They often face poverty and social distress and can be in-

sulted or threatened, the DPJ points out. "Quite often, they go back home worried, still affected by the words, the tears and the suffering they have seen."

"We don't get a pat on the back every day and sometimes, we question ourselves," says a DPJ social worker, Audrey O'Connor. However, she still has a passion for working with children and trying to make a difference in their lives.

Turnover problem?

Last year, when presenting its annual report, the former DPJ director admitted that her organization had a problem of staff turnover. This year, Mrs. Frenette states that "our results are positive regarding staff turnover."

That's not the opinion of the employees' union. At the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands Youth Centre, the staff turnover was 14% and the departure rate was 11% in 2017-

GASPESIAN MAYORS

▶ *Cont'd from page 2*

was also a coaching consultant. She has trained manpower," adds Éric Dubé.

Regarding François Bonnardel, both men have expectations that the new Transport minister will maintain the budget earmarked for the upgrading of the railway, especially between Cascapedia-Saint Jules and Gaspé. The Matapedia-Saint-Jules section is now upgraded.

"Mr. Bonnardel must understand that the train is a priority, a necessity. The decision, we hope, is no longer politically attached, as the Société Québécoise des infrastructures, which manages the \$100 million announced last year for the our railway, is at one point independent from politicians. However, we don't know if it has reached that point of no return," states the mayor of Gaspé.

Also president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé is reassured regarding the \$100 million earmarked for the Matapedia to Gaspé line.

"Politicians can always back up on the railway file as long as work is not completed but it has never happened to a project conducted by the Société Québécoise des infrastructures. I don't expect



Photo: G. Gélinas

Interim regional director of DPJ Michelle Frenette (right) paid tribute to the employees of the youth protection agency, such as social worker Audrey O'Connor.

2018, according to *Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique du réseau de la santé et des services sociaux* (APTS).

"It means that there's a work overload for the remaining employees, which then leads to burnouts. The standard is to take charge of 18

children. Some employees take charge of 20 to 28 children," states Guylaine Michel, national representative of the APTS on the Gaspé Coast.

On March 31, 2017, the salary insurance rate (sick leave) in the regional youth protection and youth programs was 12.25%, according to the

Gaspésie Health and Social services center (CISSS). In the whole CISSS, that rate, caused by sick leave, was 8.55%.

This difference is not new and is similar to the situation in other health and social services centres, stated the Gaspé CISSS human resources director, Michel Bond.

problems. I would be more worried if a wind farm was supposed to be built in New Richmond, as is the case on the North Shore with the Apuiat project," states Mr. Dubé. He refers to the CAQ lack of enthusiasm regarding

wind energy.

"The new government has a strong economic flavour (...) Numbers talk favourably for our railway file. Our traffic statistics are increasing rapidly, we hire people and we invest," concludes the mayor

of New Richmond.

The Matapédia to Gaspé line was acquired by Quebec's Department of Transport in 2015 but the Gaspésie Railway Society, its former owner, remained as the operator of freight trains.

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MMAFMA, a non-profit organization, to a new entity held by the three communities, which will be able to ensure that the project continues on a larger scale. Five jobs have been created so far. The organization has received a total of \$693,456 in contributions from various government departments since 2016.

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions has provided the organization with a total of \$235,919 in financial assistance, in the form of non-repayable contributions, \$99,998 from 2016 to 2018 and \$135,921 for 2018-2019.

Since 2016, the project has also received a total of \$232,067 in financial assistance from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Finally, Indigenous Services Canada provided \$225,470 over a three-year period: \$52,101 in 2016-2017, \$98,635 in 2017-2018 and \$74,734 in 2018-2019.

Thirdly, the Mi'gmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association multi-species fishing school boat will provide training-to-employment services to support a total of 60 Indigenous men and women from the three communities of Gespeg, Gaspé and Viger. The total value of the agreement is \$620,097 over 36 months.

With this project, MMAFMA aims for improving the employability of the 60 Indigenous participants by offering a practical training program on board of its school boat, the NIGNAG, combined with theoretical training given by accredited trainers, including the *École des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Québec (ÉPAQ)* and the Institut Maritime du Québec.

In 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, the project also received financial support of \$120,845 from the Maritime Initiative, a strategic partnership initiative implemented by the Quebec regional office of Indigenous Services Canada.

This financial contribution enabled MMAFMA to use the multi-species fishing school boat, acquired with the support of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), to train their first cohort in summer and fall 2017. The Maritime Initiative aims at boosting the Indigenous maritime economy by developing the Indigenous workforce

Four sessions of teaching are offered, the first one being an introduction to fishing and aquaculture while session two is fisherman's helper or professional diver training. The third session focuses on the training and certification of captains, while the last one aims to improve the skills of captains in order to broaden their areas of expertise in various fishing and aquaculture activities. Participants in the captain courses will receive a Class 4 licence recognized by Transport Canada.

Since 2016, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has contributed \$460,928 for the acquisition of the boat and licences, as well as for training.

Guy Pascal Weiner, coordinator of fisheries at Viger, points out that the crews of the fishing school boat have reached impressive results, especially in lobster and tuna fishing.

"The highest quality tuna fish delivered (this year) was landed by Native fishermen," he says.

Viger is a Native community located near Rivière-du-Loup. Their commercial fisheries are essentially located in the Gaspé Peninsula.



Traditional skills workshop held in New Carlisle


On September 29 and 30, a preserving foods workshop took place in New Carlisle as part of a Heritage Canada Project called Traditional Skills.

From left to right, participants Gina Anez, Pamela Kruse, Ruth Firlotte, Sharon LeGrand, Shelby Kruse, and workshop Facilitator Sheila Firlotte-Campbell. Everyone went home with several bottles of preserves and some were also donated to the St Andrew's Anglican Church Harvest Supper.



Don't miss a single

Check the Coast Round-up Page of The Gaspé Spec!



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Happy retirement to Joan Lucas!

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPE: As another Gaspé Polyvalent school year gets underway it is not without a major change for students, staff and one lady in particular. Joan Lucas, administrative assistant... or as fondly remembered by the old schoolers, the school secretary, has retired.

Joan began her career at Belle Anse School in 1976, after finishing the secretarial program offered at the Gaspé Polyvalent. She would eventually take on the secretarial role at the Gaspé Polyvalent in 1997 and hold down the fort there for the next 21 years.

Some would say she was the best school secretary ever. Joan's response is, "Kids keep you young." "Things have changed a lot over the years,



Photo: courtesy of Joan Lucas

she says, we used to have a Xerox machine that you cranked, and now it's Internet and cell phones."

Joan has seen many changes over the years and in the beginning she admits to having been a bit intimidated by the computer and the new technology, but she quickly

took it all in stride to become loved and respected by the school community and beyond.

Joan was there for the students in so many ways. "I for-

got my lunch money can you loan me some? Can I call home, I'm sick, I missed the bus, I need a late slip, I forgot my gym shorts, Miss, I think I broke my finger in basketball. Can I go see Joan?"

Not only was she always present for the students but the list is also long of the ways in which Joan took on different roles and contributed to the school community and its overall smooth functioning. "Joan the photocopier is jammed.. Joan how do I make this picture bigger... Joan I need a replacement, Joan I forgot my key..." and always with a smile she went above and beyond to help. So now

bearing all the good in mind from the past 21 years it's time to say -

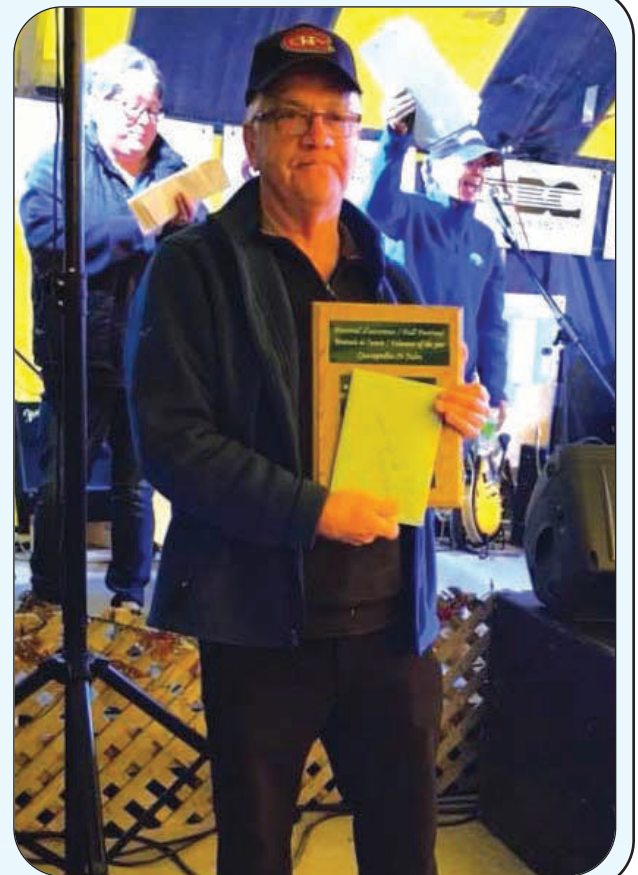
Joan for your years of dedication, love for the students, willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good, and all you've been and done for the past 21 years, it's your turn now. Time to play, to garden, to take photos and work on projects, to have fun, spend time with your friends and family, travel and do all the things you've dreamed of. On behalf of a community and a school, you are wished all the best the future has to offer. Small words in light of so many years but from the heart. Thank you.

Fall Festival Volunteer of the year

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Great volunteers are needed to make any event run smoothly. As was the case at the 18th Annual Fall Festival.

Every year organizers pick a person to say a special thank you to. This year former mayor, Pat St-Onge, was chosen. Since he became mayor in 2004, Pat has worked tirelessly toward making Fall Fest the highlight of Cascapedia-St-Jules. Over the years, along with his staff and numerous volunteers, Pat has dedicated many hours before and during the festival. Pat could never "officially" be a volunteer while representing the community so faithfully as mayor, which is why it was so important to not let his first year as a citizen go unrecognized.



Local young hockey player goes to Boston

Penny MacWhirter

PASPEBIAC: - Eleven-year-old Raphaël Cotnoir from Paspébiac recently had the opportunity of a lifetime. The hockey defenseman was chosen for the second year in a row to play for the Moncton Elite New Brunswick Select team at the JR Warriors Showcase in Boston from August 23 to 26.

The young hockey player says it was an excellent experience, especially for someone who dreams of a career in the NHL.

Raphaël is the son of Jean Cotnoir and Edith Denis.



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NOTICE

TO HUNTERS



The Town of Bonaventure would like to remind hunters that it is forbidden to hunt on private property without the express permission of the owner. The Town of Bonaventure cautions that all land on its territory is privately owned.

Hunters are reminded that it is important to respect the regulations on shooting near buildings and public roads.

In addition, we wish to emphasize that the Sûreté du Québec and wildlife protection officers will provide an increased presence on the territory of the town during the deer hunting season to ensure compliance with all regulations.



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- People aged 75 and over;
- Relatives living under the same roof and caregivers of the persons mentioned above and children under 6 months;
- Health care workers, particularly those providing direct care to patients in hospital and in long-term care center (CHSLD).

Bring your health insurance card and wear short sleeves.

To reduce the waiting time, we invite you to register on www.clicsante.ca or by phone at 1-844-689-1202
On site, meet with home support workers to learn about the services available.

CÔTE-DE-GASPÉ

Location	Date	Time
SAINTE-MADELEINE-DE-LA RIVIÈRE MADELEINE 104, rue Principale (east side entry)	November 6	10 a.m. to 12 noon
SAINT-GEORGES-DE-MALBAIE Community Hall 1939, route 132	November 6	1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
GRANDE-VALLÉE Salle Clarence Minville 5, rue Saint-François-Xavier-Est	November 7 November 22	1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
MURDOCHVILLE CLSC 600, William-May avenue	November 7 November 8	8:30 a.m. to 12 noon 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
GASPÉ C. E. Pouliot Polyvalente 85, Gaspé Blvd	November 8 November 9	1 p.m. to 7 p.m. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
GASPÉ Knights of Columbus Hall 25, Cathédrale Street	November 21	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
SAINT-AURICE Golden Age Club 34, Church Street	November 13	1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
RIVIÈRE-AU-RENARD Multifunctional Building 55, Wharf Street	November 14 November 15	1 p.m. to 7 p.m. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
CLORIDORME Municipal Hall 472, route 132 (back door)	November 15	1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
SAINT-MAJORIQUE Community Hall 41, de Saint-Majorique	November 20	1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

HAUTE-GASPÉSIE

Location	Date	Time
SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS BMF (beside the CLSC) 50, Belvédère Street	November 3 November 15 November 27	9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
MONT-LOUIS CLSC 19, 1st Avenue West	November 6 November 13	9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
MARSOUI CLSC 10, Main Street East	November 7	9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
CAP-CHAT CLSC 49, Notre Dame Street	November 9 November 14	9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

BAIE-DES-CHALEURS

Location	Date	Time
SAINT-OMER O.T.J. 106, route 132 East	November 3 November 20 December 1	9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 12 noon to 6 p.m. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
PASPÉBIAC Cultural Center 7, Gérard-D Lévesque Blvd East	November 6 December 1	12 noon to 6 p.m. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
SAINT-ALEXIS-DE-MATAPÉDIA Villa des Plateaux 187, Main Street	November 8	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
POINTE-À-LA-CROIX Recreation Center 42, Lasalle Street	November 10	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
BONAVENTURE Centre Bonne Aventure 107, Grand-Pré Avenue	November 13	12 noon to 6 p.m.
NEW-RICHMOND Adrien-Gauvreau Community Center (Seniors club - behind the theater) 97A, Suzanne Guité Square	November 16 November 17	12 noon to 6 p.m. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MATAPÉDIA CLSC 14, Perron Blvd East	November 17	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
CAPLAN O.T.J. 2, route 132	November 21 November 25	12 noon to 6 p.m. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ROCHER-PERCÉ

Location	Date	Time
CHANDLER Golf Club 200, Commerciale Street West	November 2,3 4,5, 14 and 27	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
CAP-D'ESPOIR Church 38, Curé-Poirier Street	November 7 and 21	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
GASCONS CLSC (multifunctional room) 63, route 132 West	November 8 and 22	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LISTUGUJ AUTOCHTONE RESERVE

Location	Date	Time
LISTUGUJ Listuguj Community Health Center 6, Pacific Drive	November 2	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Québec 

Announcements...



In Memory

FRASER: Alfred

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather who passed away October 30, 1991.

For yesterday and you

To your resting place we visit.

And tend it with loving care,

But the hardest part is when,

We turn and have to leave you there.

So please, dear God treasure him.

In your garden of rest,

For in this world,

He was one of the best.

Always remembered and sadly missed by your son JR, daughter-in-law Cheryl, granddaughter Bonnie, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. We miss you and love you Dad. xoxoxoxo

Card of Thanks, Birth Announcement, Prayer, Engagement, Birthday, Anniversary, Memorial service announcement:
\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

In Memoriam: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines
\$40 (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

Obituary or Wedding: \$40 (\$45 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY.

Happy Retirement!



On September 26, 2018, with over 26 years of service, Steven Imhoff retired from the Ministry of Transport.

No more night shifts.
No working on holidays,
or worrying about winter storms.
You've earned this time to relax
and enjoy fishing and hunting
or whatever you want to do!
Congratulations! Love, your family, xo

Unfailing Prayer to Saint Anthony
O holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for his creatures made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me(request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle; even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.

R.D.

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Wanted: Small parcel of land in the New Carlisle area, or a woodlot. Call Carol at 705-471-0641.

For Sale: Four winter tires - 265-70-17 - used one winter, very low mileage. Asking \$550. Call: 418-752-6041.

COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARE:

Shrine of Pointe-Navarre

The Mass of St. Peregrine, patron saint of the sick suffering from cancer and long-term diseases, will be celebrated on **Tuesday, November 6** at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre.

YORK:

York River Seniors

October 28: Harvest supper at the York River Community Hall. Takeouts from 4 to 4:45 p.m. Dinner: First sitting 5 p.m., Second sitting 6 p.m. For those having takeouts, please bring a grocery bag to carry them home. \$12 per adult, \$6 per child under 10 years of age.

BARACHOIS:

Mountain View Golden Age Club

November 3: Harvest Supper at the Mountain View Golden Age Club at 857 Route 132 East beginning at 5 p.m. \$12 for adults, and \$6 for children 11 and under. Bring your own wine. Takeouts 4:30 to 5 p.m. only.

BARACHOIS:

Christmas Market

November 24: Fourth annual Christmas Market from 9 a.m. to noon at Belle Anse School. If you are interested in reserving a table, please contact Sandy Coombs at 418-645-2874 before November 22.

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261

Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club

October 27: Military Whist. Beginning at 8 p.m. \$5 per person. Light lunch served.

November 24: Christmas tea from noon to 2 p.m. A Christmas pudding will be served for dessert. \$7 per person. Everyone welcome.

PORT DANIEL:

St. James Anglican Church

Sunday School for all school-

aged children beginning at 10 a.m. at St. James Anglican Church, Port Daniel. Children of pre-school age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please contact Stephen Dow at 418-396-3424.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Center

October 26: Halloween event for children, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., followed by a teen dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

October 27: Halloween Dance beginning at 8 p.m. \$12 per person.

November 10: Christmas Tea from noon till 3 p.m. \$7 per person.

December 1: Christmas bake and craft sale, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables available \$10.

December 3: Christmas gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church Service

Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

HOPE TOWN:

Community Center

November 9: Gift bingo beginning at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds for the purchase of a snowblower for the rink.

November 10: Military Whist. Beginning at 8 p.m.

November 30: Christmas gift bingo beginning at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds for the purchase of a snowblower for the rink.

HOPE TOWN:

United Church Women

Hope Town UCW Tea and Bake Sale will be held on **November 3** from noon to 3 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Center. Tea \$7.

PASPEBIAC

Knitters Needed

La maille de l'amitié, a group of knitters who are eager to help men, women and children who are receiving chemotherapy at Maria hospital by providing knitted hats, is looking for knitters. If needed, patterns and samples are available at the library in Paspébiac, which is also where you should drop off your knitted items. You can also include a short note of encouragement, identified by your

name only. For more information contact Claudette Whitton (418) 752-3633 or Doris Chedore (418) 752-5190.

NEW CARLISLE:

Shoebboxes for sailors

Shoobox gifts are handed out to over 1,000 seafarers in ports around Quebec every Christmas season. These gifts of toiletries, socks, toques, gloves, scarves and stationery are received with great appreciation. Please get your shoebboxes ready and deliver them to the Spec office in New Carlisle before **October 27**.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle

Rug Hooking on **October 27-28** (second weekend) Learn a new skill in a pleasant environment. The artisan Mary James will share her passion and expertise in this traditional skill. Take home your finished product. Each participant will receive enough material for a 10" by 10" mat, including frame. \$30 per person. To register contact heritagenc@globetrotter.net, call 418-752-1334 or facebook.

November 3: Learn about traditional remedies! Get some history on local herbs and plants. All participants bring home a bag of natural herbs. Herbalist Marie Claire Larocque will share her knowledge from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$10 per person. To register contact heritagenc@globetrotter.net, call 418-752-1334 or facebook.

NEW CARLISLE:

Good Samaritan Lodge

November 17: A mussel and ribs night will be held at the Town Hall in New Carlisle beginning at 5 p.m. Further information to follow.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services

Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m.; Sunday night service - 7 p.m.; Wednesday: Bible study and prayer - 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion

October 27: Cribbage tournament. Registration at 12:30 p.m. and start at 1 p.m. \$10 per person, bring a partner. Call Norma at 418-752-6214 or Legion at 418-752-5495

October 27: Halloween dance, from 8 p.m. to midnight, music provided by Nash Stanley. \$5 per person. Get out those scary costumes and come kick up your heels.

November 3: Annual winter bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. crafts, baking, etc. \$5 per table. To reserve please call 418-752-6799 or 418-752-5495.

November 11: Remembrance Day church service will be held at 9 a.m. at St. Andrews Anglican Church in New Carlisle.

November 11: The November 11th ceremonies will be held at the New Carlisle High School gymnasium at 11 a.m. Parade leaving NCHS at 10:30 a.m.

November 27: Wise and wonderful game nights for seniors 55 years and older. From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Everyone welcome. Free. Light lunch served

December 1: Annual Christmas bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 a series or \$20 for three series.

NEW CARLISLE:

Life Association

November 17: Fall tea from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. \$6 per person.

NEW CARLISLE:

Dart Club

November 3: Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the New Carlisle Legion.

NEW RICHMOND:

St. Andrew's United Church

October 27: Turkey Supper at St. Andrews United Church hall from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Takeouts from 4 to 5 p.m. only. For takeouts please contact Judy Willett at 418-392-4366 or Joyce Munro at 418-759-3534. \$13 per adult, children \$7.

NEW RICHMOND:

Flea Market

New clothing has arrived, \$1 each. Good, hot meal at noon. Free. Donations accepted. We also give away hundreds of items every week. To donate or obtain furniture, please call 418-392-5161. Open on **Fridays** and **Saturdays** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 248 Perron Blvd, New Richmond.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Bible Talks

Inviting the community to Bible talks at the Cascapedia-St-Jules Community Centre on Sunday, **October 28**, from 4 to 5 p.m. Kilton Jacques, Steve Shulz - 438-820-2886. All are welcome.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, meets monthly every third **Saturday** at the

Legion located at 55 Gallagher St. Please be advised that this months meeting has been rescheduled to **October 27**.

November 3: Remembrance Day celebrations beginning at 4 p.m. at the Tekakwitha Mission, Gasgapegiag.

November 7 - 8: Remembrance Day wreaths can be picked up from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

November 11: Remembrance Day celebrations beginning at 11 a.m. at the Cenotaph, Gasgapegiag, followed by refreshments at the Wejgwapniag School.

November 18: Annual roast beef dinner to honour the veterans from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Legion. Cost is \$12 per adult, \$8 for 12 years and under. Everyone is encouraged to attend this special event.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

Please note that the book room is reopened on **Wednesdays** from 1 - 4 p.m. For more details, please contact Kathleen Paquet at 418-392-4896.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club

Every Thursday: Dame de Pique at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

N.A. Meetings held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Mawiomni Treatment Centre, located at 85 School Street in Gesgapegiag. Everyone welcome! For more information call 418-759-3522.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

The winners for the week of October 14 are: Esther Bujold, Patrick Boudreau, Jean Bearisto, Raynald Murphy, Sylvie Cyr & Paulo Landry, Rudy Willett, Denise Cyr.

UNITED CHURCH Sunday, October 28

9 a.m. worship with Anglicans in Shigawake

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, October 28

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Shigawake

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Port Daniel

(Sunday School 10 a.m.)

PARISH OF GASPÉ Sunday, October 28

York

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.

Please send your ad to: joan.spec@globetrotter.net

On the lighter side...



What is old becomes new again!
Don't throw out your old furniture,
change it up and make something new...

Before



After



TEAM SPORTS WORD SEARCH

E G N O N P L B T S F A Q U A R T E R S
 F H M A T R A C K S I E O L G S I S K N
 I Y N C Q P T R R T E P R E I P T A W B
 M P O N E E R G W A L O G N Y R T N A M
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 E S I H C N A R F K G D T K C B R L F I
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 H E I W Q I D Q L T N O C B I W Y E C E
 U F L N O K S S A R G O L L P I T C H U
 W G S D C L L A B E S A B C Y A C N H P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

BALL
 BASEBALL
 BASES
 BASKETBALL
 CATCH
 CELEBRATE
 CLOCK
 COURT
 FANS
 FIELD
 FOOTBALL
 FRANCHISE
 FUMBLE
 GOLF
 GRASS
 GREEN
 INNING
 LINEUP
 NET
 OPPOSITION
 PITCH
 PLAYERS
 PRACTICE
 QUARTER
 REFEREE
 ROSTER
 RUGBY
 SCORE
 SOCCER
 SPORTS
 STADIUM
 STRIKE
 TEAM
 TENNIS
 TRACK
 WIN



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
 Aries, if you want to be a pioneer, you have to trust yourself and take some risks. Find ways to expand your social circle and attend as many events as you can.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
 Do not worry about pleasing everyone, Taurus. Doing so is impossible and will zap you of the energy you need to devote to those who truly matter to you. Value their opinions.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
 You are in an amorous mood this

week, Gemini. Focus your energy on romantic plans. Develop an idea for a dinner as a couple, or a friends' night out with others.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
 Cancer, if you want to improve your bottom line, you may need to seek the advice of a professional. Make an appointment to see how to better manage your funds.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
 Leo, keep close friends close, but see if there are any opportunities to widen your network. Networking is an important skill to master. It could serve you well.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
 Virgo, it is okay to make mistakes if it is a matter of personal growth.

Sometimes the most valuable lessons are learned by making a mistake and correcting it.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
 Family ties have you pulled in one direction when you may have your eyes focused in another, Libra. With some careful shuffling, you can likely find a balance.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
 Awkward situations give you the opportunity to think on your feet and find amenable solutions to problems, Scorpio. Don't underestimate the advantages of this skill.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
 A few changes may be heading your way, Sagittarius. These are nothing you cannot handle with grace. Look

for opportunities for growth with anything that comes your way.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
 Capricorn, sometimes the best ideas come when you aren't focused on finding solutions to problems. Keep an open mind and all types of different ideas can arrive.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
 Certain things are inevitable, Aquarius. But you can adapt to many different situations and make them work for you. Do not be scared off by larger projects on the horizon.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
 Pisces, channel your creative energy into something lucrative this week. This may be just what you need to turn a passion into a career.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
OCTOBER 21
 Aaron Tveit, Actor (35)
OCTOBER 22
 Jeff Goldblum, Actor (66)
OCTOBER 23
 Ryan Reynolds, Actor (42)
OCTOBER 24
 Adrienne Bailon, Singer (35)
OCTOBER 25
 Ciara, Singer (33)
OCTOBER 26
 CM Punk, Wrestler (40)
OCTOBER 27
 Marla Maples, Reality Star (55)

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Diane Skinner Flowers



Snow-loving Big Cats

A recent posting on facebook shared a lengthy video of a lynx. This sighting was near to New Richmond and was remarkable because the lynx was not scared off by the photographer. It seemed a tad apprehensive but did not run. It was a beautiful animal and though the lynx is not a threatened or endangered species, suffers a dramatic rise in numbers some years followed by a significantly lower population.

The Canadian lynx is a mammal that is found across Canada, into Alaska and parts of northern United States. Its fur is a stunningly beautiful silvery-brown. It has distinctive tufted ears and is roughly twice the size of a house cat. The lynx is a close relative to the bobcat, which tend to be smaller. Like the bobcat the front legs are shorter than the back legs. This gives the lynx a distinctive look, with the back sloping downwards to the front. The lynx has a short, stubby tail. The adult is between 80 and 100 centimeters (31 – 39 inches) in length and its height is roughly 50 centimeters (20 inches). The Canadian lynx weighs between 5 and 18 kilograms. (11 – 40 pounds)

The fur of the lynx is a beautiful blend of colours which camouflage the animal. There have been reports of a blue lynx in Alaska. All lynxes sport the characteristic tufts of blackish fur which stick up from the ears. In the colder months the hair on its lower face grows very long and gives the appearance of a beard. Its underbelly is normally white. The stubby tail has dark rings and a black tip. The paws are covered in long and thick hair.

The Canadian lynx is well-equipped for hunting. It has 28 teeth and four long, canine teeth. It also has sharp claws that are can be completely drawn in. (retractable) The paws are remarkable and are nature's snowshoes. The paws can spread as wide as 10 centimeters. (4 inches) This allows the lynx to travel quickly on snowy surfaces.

The lynx is normally a night hunter to catch its major prey – the snowshoe hare which is also nocturnal. When the lynx hunts it often covers an area of 8 – 9 kilometers. (5 miles) The lynx is also an excellent climber and swimmer. Most lynx are 'loners' who hunt and mostly remain alone, except for mating and raising their kittens.

Lynx are carnivores, eating meat exclusively. The cycle of the rise and fall in lynx populations is tied to the availability of food. Scientists have determined that this cycle occurs every 8 – 11 years. Though the snowshoe hare is the preferred food of the lynx, it will also hunt in times of scarcity, other small animals such as moles, grouse, and squirrels. Normally when the hares are available a lynx will hunt and eat one every day or two.

The lynx is a beautiful animal – clever and well-suited to its environment. How can humans help these snow-loving Big Cats? Stay away. Allow them to hunt and live in the forests of the Gaspé. Do not get too close because they should not get used to humans. This is, in part, for the protection of humans, but mostly for the lynx. Not all humans are their friends.



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